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Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2007

Information document

Summary

The present report provides a summary of the activities undertaken by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and its members to promote sustainable forest management and the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, as well as the decisions and resolutions of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Economic and Social Council.

Since the last progress report was issued in 2005, CPF has embarked on three new initiatives: the science and technology initiative, created to enhance the accessibility of existing scientific information by policymakers; the Forest Sourcebook on sustainable forest management, designed to assist forest practitioners; and the initiative on finance, which will provide background information on existing and potential new sources of financing for sustainable forest management to the Forum at its seventh session.

CPF continues to develop and expand existing initiatives on streamlining reporting, harmonizing definitions, a sourcebook on financing for sustainable forest management, a global forest information service and a common website. Members engage in collaborative activities related to improving governance and law enforcement; monitoring, assessment and reporting; forest landscape restoration and rehabilitation of degraded lands; improving access to financing for sustainable forest management; research in forest landscape mosaics; poverty alleviation and ensuring livelihoods; and public outreach.

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CPF members look forward to continuing the fruitful collaboration, including at the regional and national levels, to support the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the expected non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, as well as the new multi-year programme of work of the Forum.

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I. Introduction and background

1. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)[1] is an integral part of the international arrangement on forests, with two main tasks: to support the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests and to enhance cooperation and coordination among the members.[2] The members of this voluntary Partnership lend support and assistance to countries' efforts to implement sustainable forest management. In 2006 the important role of CPF in accomplishing both of these objectives was reiterated by the Economic and Social Council, which invited members of CPF to continue to "strengthen their collaboration and coordination on forest issues in order to foster progress towards sustainable forest management at the global, regional and national levels".[3] The present fifth report of CPF is intended to review progress in such collaboration by focusing on developments since 2005 on joint initiatives and collaborative activities.

II. Support of governing bodies of members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests for the international arrangement on forests in 2005 and 2006

2. Member organizations of CPF value their participation in the Partnership and actively lend their support to the work of the Forum on Forests. Some of the governing bodies of CPF members have already recognized the global objectives on forests adopted by the Economic and Social Council in 2006, and many have encouraged their secretariats to continue to play an active role in the Partnership. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Councils of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), as well as the Board of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), recognized explicit links between the programmatic work of their respective organizations and the agreements of the Forum on Forests, as well as the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF)/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF). Areas where CPF member organizations are encouraged to continue work include harmonization of reporting, sharing of information, promotion of sustainable forest management at the regional and national levels, governance, law enforcement and related trade.

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[1] CPF consists of 14 independent organizations working in association to promote the implementation of sustainable forest management: the Centre for International Forestry Research, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Tropical Timber Organization, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Agroforestry Centre, the World Bank and the World Conservation Union.

[2] Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35.

[3] Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49, para. 22 (a).

3. The new International Tropical Timber Agreement 2006, which is scheduled to enter into force on 1 February 2008 and is legally binding, broadens the scope of the work of ITTO to include new priority and emerging issues such as forest law enforcement, addressing illegal logging and associated trade, poverty alleviation, certification, non-timber forest products, environmental services and forest-dependent indigenous and local communities, in line with the IPF/IFF proposals for action.

4. A number of CPF members also show their support to the Forum on Forests through the secondment of senior staff to the Forum secretariat. Currently, the secretariat benefits from secondments from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and ITTO.

III. Actions taken to fulfil United Nations Forum on Forests decisions and resolutions related directly to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its members

5. In its resolution 2006/49 the Economic and Social Council invited the governing bodies of the National Forest Programme Facility, the Programme on Forests and the Bali Partnership Fund to work closely in promoting sustainable forest management at the national level.

6. As an international funding mechanism and an information initiative, the National Forest Programme Facility helps countries to develop and implement their national forest programmes that effectively address local needs and national priorities and reflect international principles. The emphasis of this unique partnership arrangement is on informed participation of civil society in national policymaking. Phase I (2002-2007) of the Facility was reviewed externally and deemed successful. Given the high demand for support and the interest of donors in continuing and expanding their contributions, the aim in the next five-year period is to expand direct support from the current 40 countries to 60 and to double the Facility's budget to $34 million. The steering committee that guides the operations of the Facility includes representatives from Africa, Asia and Latin America, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), research institutions, the private sector, foundations, and FAO and the World Bank as international partner organizations. The Facility continues its cooperation with the Programme on Forests, including through back-to-back meetings, information-sharing and in-country collaboration.

7. Through the utilization of the Bali Partnership Fund, ITTO continues to enhance the capacity of its members to export timber from sustainably managed sources. This is in addition to projects and pre-projects promoting sustainable forest management funded under the ITTO special account.

8. The Programme on Forests is a multi-donor partnership formed to pursue the shared goal of enhancing forests' contributions to poverty reduction, sustainable development and the protection of environmental services. Of particular interest to the Programme is reforming market structures to make sustainable forestry more profitable than unsustainable forest exploitation, a process encompassing activities such as the assessment of potential forest revenue generation from both traditional and innovative financing options, including the restructuring of existing economic

and fiscal instruments; the development of markets and mechanisms to capture environmental services provided by forests, such as carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation and watershed protection; and government adoption of policies that create enabling conditions for investment in sustainable forest management and that encourage the private sector to engage in such investments.

9. In its resolution 2006/49 the Economic and Social Council also invited the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to fully consider the potential for strengthened support of GEF for sustainable forest management. A new focal-area strategy was approved by the Council in December 2006. The new Resource Allocation Framework will provide an opportunity for countries themselves to prioritize funding for sustainable forest management, if they so choose. At the same time, GEF considers forests to be a cross-cutting issue that is relevant to a number of operational programmes, including that on biodiversity.

10. In the same resolution, the Council also called on CPF to continue a number of other ongoing activities, including promoting the exchange of forest management-related experiences and good practices; further harmonizing processes for voluntary monitoring, assessment and reporting; translating relevant policy recommendations of the Forum into their programmes of work; exploring ways to involve major groups in the activities of CPF; strengthening the Partnership's contribution to activities at the regional level; and developing and implementing strategies on conservation and rehabilitation of forests in countries with low forest cover. As can be seen from the reporting on activities in the sections below, efforts to meet many of those requests are already under way.

IV. Joint initiatives of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

A. New initiatives

11. In a continuing effort to respond to the needs identified by member States, CPF members have started the following new initiatives since 2005.

1. Initiative on science and technology

12. Spearheaded by IUFRO in cooperation with the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), FAO, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Forum on Forests secretariat, the initiative on science and technology seeks to assess and analyse existing scientific information from international and national institutions and to inform policymakers about the state of the art in each chosen field in a comprehensive, interdisciplinary, objective, open and transparent way. It will bring together leading scientists from around the globe to provide validated and independent scientific information on key issues of political interest. Selected scientists will form expert panels to assess existing, peer-reviewed scientific information on specific topics and prepare reports that are easily comprehensible to policymakers and stakeholders, as well as directly relevant to the intergovernmental process. The steering committee, composed of participating CPF members, will choose the topics on the basis of requests of the Forum on Forests and other intergovernmental processes, and consultations with Governments, major groups and CPF members, as appropriate.

13. Through the timely preparation of focused reports on issues of major concern, the initiative will link information needs of the Forum on Forests and other intergovernmental processes with available scientific expertise. In this way, it is aimed at supporting more informed decision-making at the global level and contributing to the achievement of international forest-related commitments and internationally agreed development goals.

14. The joint initiative will seek financial and in-kind contributions from Governments and CPF members. Additional support may be provided by other donors, such as foundations. Basic funding for starting the joint initiative has been received by IUFRO from the Government of Finland.

15. The Economic and Social Council welcomed this initiative in its resolution 2006/49.

2. Forest Sourcebook on sustainable forest management

16. Although the primary concerns with regard to forests have not changed since the Rio Forest Principles were agreed in 1992, changes in, inter alia, trade regimes, governance structures, community ownership, level of civil society engagement and information exchange have created a new global and national context in which the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests need to be achieved. These changes create new opportunities and challenges for ensuring that forests continue to meet the needs of diverse users and serve their multiple functions and uses.

17. The Forest Sourcebook, created as a result of collaboration between the World Bank, FAO, CIFOR and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), as well as a number of donor organizations, NGOs and academic institutions, is designed to assist countries and practitioners in implementing projects aimed at taking advantage of the potential of forests to contribute to poverty alleviation, conservation and development. The Forest Sourcebook covers topics such as the role of forests in poverty reduction, community-based forest management, making markets work for the forest-dependent poor, property and access rights, small and medium-sized forest-based enterprises, meeting the growing demand for wood, forest certification systems, optimizing forest functions at the landscape level, improving forest governance, mainstreaming forest considerations into macropolicy dialogue and monitoring forest sector projects.

3. Initiative on financing

18. As a contribution to the current discussion on means of implementation, and to highlight trends and emerging options likely to have a significant influence on forest-sector finance, the World Bank and the Forum on Forests secretariat, in cooperation with other CPF members, are preparing a paper on financing sustainable forest management, to be submitted to the Forum at its seventh session. The paper will focus on practical issues, discussing possible new innovative solutions and the potential to strengthen existing funds by effectively mobilizing resources to support the implementation of sustainable forest management, build capacity, to carry out analytical work and to pilot policy options.

B. Ongoing initiatives

1. Streamlining reporting

19. In order to help reduce the reporting burden on countries and improve the efficiency of reporting, members agreed to work to reduce the reporting burden of countries and streamline reporting requests, synchronize reporting cycles, harmonize data collection methods, increase data comparability and compatibility, facilitate the accessibility and flow of existing information and increase capacity-building at the national level. Recognizing the need for the coordinated presentation of information, members recommended that reports be organized according to the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management. FAO and ITTO have already adopted this approach, and the secretariats of the Forum on Forests and the Convention on Biological Diversity have stated that such organization would be possible.

20. As a first step, the CPF task force on this issue[4] created a reporting portal[5] that provides at a single glance a reporting calendar, as well as reporting guidelines for each CPF member, links to reports submitted to the various organizations by country and other relevant information.

21. Since 2005 ITTO, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and FAO have worked towards more coordinated information-gathering, in particular within the framework of the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA). FRA 2010 is aimed at providing information on all major elements of sustainable forest management and thus also at helping to monitor progress towards the achievement of the global objectives on forests agreed by the Forum on Forests and the Economic and Social Council, the 2010 target of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other targets and objectives of the International Tropical Timber Agreement, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other processes. Nine CPF members provided their expertise for outlining FRA 2010.

22. ITTO, FAO the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) also continue to work jointly to collect statistics on trends related to production and trade of forest products.

Challenges

23. A number of challenges remain. Several CPF members cited fixed reporting schedules and reporting formats that can be changed only through a decision of their respective governing bodies. This is particularly true of the Rio Conventions, whose governing bodies give explicit instructions in relation to the content, periodicity and timing of reports. Others cited difficulties in synchronizing the reporting schedules because of the need for information at different times and with varying frequency.

[4] Members of the task force include FAO, ITTO, UNEP, and the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Forum on Forests.

[5] www.fao.org/forestry/cpf-mar.

Planned activities

24. The following activities are planned for the period 2006-2010:

(a) Further development of a more coordinated approach to working with countries on requests for information, including (i) joint information requests, (ii) addressing gaps in information, (iii) closer networking, at both the international and national levels, and (iv) establishment of a CPF repository of national forest information reported to the governing bodies;

(b) Maintaining and improving the CPF reporting portal. Relevant CPF members will continue to link their national reporting processes, including the reports and guidelines, to the CPF reporting portal and to update their information periodically. FAO will maintain the site technically;

(c) Increasing coordination for information assembly. Considering the potential overlaps in information-gathering for FRA 2010, progress towards the 2010 target of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the next round of ITTO criteria and indicator reporting, the three secretariats will work closely to develop a harmonized approach;

(d) Increasing capacity-building at the national level for forest information collection, analysis and reporting.

2. Harmonizing definitions

25. The initiative on harmonizing definitions is aimed at achieving more consistency in the use of forest-related definitions, thus contributing to reducing the reporting burden and related costs for countries, as well as facilitating communication and negotiation under international conventions, processes and instruments. FAO, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, CIFOR, ITTO, IUFRO, UNEP and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change have convened three expert meetings on this issue since 2002, the latest of which was held in January 2005. Key terms discussed, among others, were "natural forest", "planted forest", "forest plantation", "trees outside of forests", "managed forest" and "unmanaged forest". There was general, although not unanimous, agreement on definitions for the first three terms, and participants reached consensus on the working definition of "forest management".

26. An extensive set of recommendations to specific conventions, intergovernmental bodies, countries and other stakeholders was also agreed upon during the meetings. CPF provides a web portal to forest definitions,[6] including the outcome of the expert meetings, definitions used by CPF members and a number of other links to thesauri and definition databases. The recently compiled IUFRO multilingual glossary on carbon in forests, which highlights the terms that may cause confusion because of diverging national interpretations, is also included.

Challenges

27. Different definitions of forest-related terms can be used in various contexts to meet different political and practical ends. As in the case of obstacles to harmonization of reporting, some problems may best be overcome through better

[6] www.fao.org/forestry/cpf-definitions.

coordination among governing bodies that may set definitions to be used in reporting.

3. Sourcebook on Funding for Sustainable Forest Management

28. The Sourcebook on Funding for Sustainable Forest Management[7] was developed by CPF in collaboration with its partners and the National Forest Programme Facility to assist users in locating global funding sources for sustainable forest management projects in the form of an electronic database. In 2006 all entries in the database were updated and the number of funding sources was substantially increased, from 450 in September 2004 to 650 in March 2006. French and Spanish sources were also added to increase the geographic coverage. The database system was upgraded to improve access to information, with a new interactive search function.

29. In addition to the database, a new electronic funding newsletter has been initiated. It is aimed at assisting fund-seekers worldwide to learn about funding opportunities in a timely manner. It is sent once a month to over 600 e-mail subscribers. The Sourcebook also continues to host a discussion forum that has attracted the participation of hundreds of individuals and has helped its page become one of the most frequently visited on the CPF website.

Challenges

30. The enduring challenge continues to be keeping up to date with fast-changing information on funding opportunities.

Planned activities

31. The initiative will seek to continually strengthen the dissemination of the funding newsletter and to continue the discussion forum, as well as work with other CPF members to update and increase the information on funding sources.

4. Global Forest Information Service

32. The Global Forest Information Service (GFIS) is an Internet gateway that provides access to forest-related information through a single entry point.[8] Searching among the resources is free and provides direct access to the original information. All information made available through GFIS is supplied by partner institutions from around the world that are concerned with forest information.

33. An upgraded version of the GFIS gateway was opened in January 2007, providing an improved search tool and viewing facility for the latest news, events, publications and job opportunities and overall enhanced visibility of GFIS partners. The technical development and maintenance of the current GFIS gateway is being carried out by the Finnish Forest Research Institute. In February 2007, new Spanish and French language interfaces were launched to complement the existing English-language interface.

34. The GFIS core partners (IUFRO, CIFOR, FAO, National Biological Information Infrastructure) continue to expand its network of information providers

[7] Available at www.fao.org/forestry/cpf-sourcebook.

[8] GFIS can be accessed at www.gfis.net.

and available services. The partners completed training workshops in the Russian Federation, China and Chile in parallel with the system development in 2006. The training has been supported by ITTO, as well as the Governments of Austria, the Republic of Korea and Switzerland.

Challenges

35. The development of GFIS has overcome several challenges that were due in part to the evolving nature of the technologies and tools for managing metadata-based information services such as GFIS and in part to the time it takes to build sustainable partnerships.

Planned activities

36. A new GFIS strategic framework is currently being developed with the support of ITTO in order to provide a guideline for developing and operating GFIS in the period from 2007 to 2011. Within the next five years, GFIS aims to achieve the following specific outputs: (a) all GFIS partners will use common data exchange formats for categories of information such as events, vacancies, news and publications; (b) all CPF members and half of all IUFRO members will participate in GFIS; (c) half of all GFIS partners will come from developing countries; and (d) a full-text web search of GFIS partners will be available.

5. Website

37. By providing information on the partnership and its activities, the CPF website[9] raises awareness regarding the promotion of sustainable forest management, as well as the individual action areas of the CPF members. The Forum on Forests secretariat maintains the site in collaboration with FAO. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity decided at its eighth session that the Convention's forest portal should be linked to and integrated into the CPF website. That request has been fulfilled. A future opportunity will lie in making the website an active clearinghouse mechanism to disseminate good practices and success stories.

V. Collaborative activities

38. The spirit of enhanced cooperation often goes beyond the formal boundaries of the Partnership, and CPF members regularly engage in collaborative activities on a wide range of issues related to sustainable forest management. The present section highlights progress in selected activities, as well as new initiatives.

39. In addition, CPF has catalysed more systematic planning among its members. For example, in 2005 the Convention on Biological Diversity secretariat and FAO initiated a joint planning effort for more coordinated support to enhance forest biological diversity and to continue the implementation of the Convention's programme of work on forest biological diversity. Similarly, FAO and ITTO have recently undertaken more systematic planning for funding and implementing many of their joint activities.

[9] www.fao.org/forestry/cpf.

A. Improving governance and law enforcement

40. A number of CPF members, including CIFOR, FAO, IUCN, IUFRO, ITTO and the World Bank, are actively engaged in the growing field of forest governance and law enforcement. In May 2006 the World Bank and IUCN worked together to organize the Antalya Workshop on the Implementation of the Europe and North Asia Forest Law Enforcement and Governance Ministerial Declaration, in which Governments and stakeholders alike participated. In August 2006 FAO, ITTO and the World Bank worked with the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization to organize a regional workshop on implementing forest law in the hope of building a basis for future regional discussions on forest law and governance. The World Bank is also working with FAO, IUCN and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), the United Kingdom Department for International Development and the United States Agency for International Development in Central America to possibly hold a ministerial conference on that theme in 2007.

41. In 2005 FAO and ITTO formed a partnership to promote best practices in forest law compliance. The publication *Best Practices for Improving Law Compliance in the Forest Sector* was completed and was used to disseminate current steps being taken at the national and international levels to deal with forest crimes, and to help build capacity through the sharing of experiences. As a follow-up, FAO and ITTO, in collaboration with other partners, including the World Bank and IUCN, helped organize a series of regional workshops, beginning in 2006. The workshops have provided an opportunity to update and improve reported best practices, since new developments occur almost daily in this fast-moving field.[10] Future workshops are expected to be held in West Africa and Central America in 2007, and will be convened in cooperation with existing regional forest law enforcement and governance processes.

42. CIFOR and the Forum on Forests secretariat have also initiated a joint study on forests in relation to conflict and peacebuilding. The study will take into account both national and international efforts to mitigate the use of forests and other natural resources in support of violent conflict and seeks to draw lessons learned for consideration by the international forest policy community.

43. In addition, the Convention on Biological Diversity secretariat, in collaboration with CIFOR, is currently preparing documents on the assessment of unauthorized harvesting of fauna, including bush meat. That document is scheduled to be published online for peer review in 2007.

B. Monitoring, assessment and reporting

44. Apart from the joint initiatives on harmonization of reporting and clarification of definitions, a number of CPF members maintain programmes to build capacity at the national and regional levels for improved monitoring, assessment and reporting. Spearheaded by FAO and the Government of Japan, CPF members, including the Convention on Biological Diversity secretariat, ITTO and UNEP, have launched an initiative that assists countries in developing a harmonized national forest monitoring, assessment and reporting system that is linked directly to national

[10] For more information, see: http://www.fao.org/docrep/008/a0146e/a0146e00.htm.

policy and planning in the Asia and the Pacific region. Through regional workshops in 2006, the project contributed to the establishment of national networks of focal points for various forest-related processes, conventions and agencies at the national, regional and global levels. Fourteen Asian countries have already informally set up such national networks. The project is also providing training for national professionals to harmonize remote sensing-based forest classification, build skills for two- and three-dimensional data visualization, develop indicators on forest degradation, deforestation and fragmentation, and standardize information management related to national forest inventories and assessments. Parts of the project will be replicated in Latin America and Africa in 2007.

C. Forest landscape restoration and rehabilitation of degraded lands

45. The Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration, formed in 2003, remains an active platform for collaboration by IUCN, ITTO, CIFOR, the Convention on Biological Diversity secretariat, FAO, ICRAF, IUFRO, the Forum on Forests secretariat, UNEP and the World Bank, as well as many other partners. Nine national workshops were held by ITTO and IUCN, in Guyana, Mexico, Guatemala, the Philippines, Myanmar, India, Cameroon, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. The Partnership held a steering committee meeting this year and agreed on three priority areas for action in the coming year: to continue building the Partnership and expanding publicity efforts to increase awareness and knowledge regarding its activities; to create a learning network to link practitioners working in areas undergoing forest landscape restoration or considering the need for such action in order to share experience among a wider group of people; and to update the overall action plan of the Partnership and its budget. The meeting also helped strengthen cooperation among members of the Partnership. There was fruitful discussion on defining the criteria of success in forest landscape restoration activities. A programme of action to implement the Petropolis Workshop Outcome was also developed. As a scientific contribution to the Global Partnership, an International IUFRO Conference on Forest Landscape Restoration will be convened in 2007 in the Republic of Korea, in cooperation with IUCN, the World Wide Fund for Nature and other partner organizations. The objective of the conference is to examine the scientific basis for forest landscape restoration and its linkages to practice and policy.[11]

D. Improving access to financing for sustainable forest management

46. Access to financing remains a significant challenge for many countries, and a number of CPF members are working actively with countries in this regard. Such members include GEF, FAO, ITTO, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, through its Global Mechanism, and the World Bank.

47. In 2005 FAO, in collaboration with IUCN, the Central American Commission on Environment and Development, the Government of the Netherlands and GTZ started a two-year project on strategies and financing mechanisms for the conservation and sustainable use of forests in Latin America. Its main objectives are to study information related to financing instruments and mechanisms to promote

[11] For more information, see: http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/korea/.

the sustainable use and conservation of forests and to increase the capacity of national forest programmes to develop strategies to finance sustainable forest management. The project responds to the need to broaden and diversify the financial basis for sustainable forest management increasingly felt in many Latin American countries. It also addresses the need for an appropriate mix of investment promotion and risk-mitigation instruments to make private, public, national and institutional investment in sustainable forest management an attractive option. A number of case studies and desk reviews are currently being analysed.[12]

48. ITTO, in collaboration with the World Bank, convened several international and regional tropical forest investment forums in Latin America in 2006. ITTO also supported the World Bank's initiative on forest investment in South Africa in June 2006. The aim of those meetings was to promote investment in the sustainable management of natural tropical forests and natural forest-based development.

E. Platform for research in forest landscape mosaics

49. CIFOR and ICRAF, with support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, joined forces in 2006 to launch a joint research platform on integrating livelihoods and biodiversity conservation in tropical forest landscape mosaics of major biological importance. The CIFOR-ICRAF Biodiversity Platform will focus on multifunctionality in forest landscape mosaics, building on institutional mandates to address conservation and development for a sustainable environment in the developing world. Emphasis is placed on local people's perspectives, but the guiding principle is to work with multiple stakeholders and at different governance levels. The platform will seek to:

(a) Promote dialogue and networking to catalyse the development of new thinking, approaches and practices in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in multifunctional landscapes;

(b) Provide opportunities for:

(i) Lesson-sharing, especially across disciplines, sites and scales;

(ii) Synergies (e.g., of resources, skills, and mandates);

(iii) Added value (e.g., through syntheses and generalization).

50. The Biodiversity Platform is aimed at collaboratively delivering international public goods on the following themes:

(a) Relationships between biodiversity and livelihood security in multifunctional landscapes;

(b) Ecological processes and spatial dynamics of biodiversity in forest landscape mosaics;

(c) Opportunities for and constraints to providing incentives for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and equitable benefit-sharing in forest landscape mosaics;

[12] For more information, see: www.fao.org/forestry/site/33408/sp.

(d) Potential for harmonization of customary and statutory rules and laws in relation to multifunctionality of forest landscape mosaics.

F. Poverty alleviation and ensuring sustainable livelihoods

51. IUCN, FAO, UNEP, ICRAF and CIFOR, together with regional integration organizations in West Africa and international conservation partners, organized a regional workshop to address poverty alleviation through the harmonization of forest policies in the West Africa subregion. That highly successful meeting, held in July 2006, set the stage for launching a dialogue on forests and poverty for the West Africa subregion.

52. The work to develop a Forestry-Poverty Linkages Toolkit, funded by PROFOR and developed with input from CIFOR, IUCN, the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), and Winrock, was completed over the course of 2006 by ODI and Winrock. The toolkit will be tested in four African countries with funding from the Programme on Forests, and in several others through the IUCN Livelihoods and Landscapes programme. The toolkit makes it possible to gather snapshot data with which to make a case for more consideration of the contribution of forests to the livelihoods of the rural poor in the process of developing poverty reduction strategy papers, and through the mandated sectoral and other monitoring.

53. The Rights and Resources Initiative was launched in 2006 by CPF members IUCN, CIFOR and ICRAF jointly with Forest Trends, the Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and the Pacific, the Foundation for People and Community Development, the Coordinating Association of Indigenous and Community Agroforestry in Central America, the United States Forest Service and InterCooperation. This new coalition is dedicated to raising global awareness of the critical need for forest tenure, policy and market reforms, in order to achieve global goals of poverty alleviation, biodiversity conservation and forest-based economic growth.

54. FAO, with support from ITTO, held an international conference on managing forests for poverty reduction, in October 2006 in Viet Nam, to discuss how to strengthen the contribution of sustainable forest management to poverty alleviation. Participants shared experiences and viewpoints related to purposeful management of forests, implementation of labour-intensive forest harvesting, wood processing, marketing to benefit the rural poor and the identification and promotion of realistic options for forest management and utilization by local people.

G. Forest fires

55. FAO, ITTO, CIFOR and IUCN have been working together for several years to seek and propose options to control and mitigate the negative effects of forest fires. That collaboration has registered success in fire-prone regions, such as South-East Asia, leading to horizontal and vertical scaling-up through current projects. One such project is the ITTO and IUCN project "Fire management and post-fire restoration with local community collaboration in Ghana", which will propose adequate fire policies and produce tools to guide local community management of forest fires in Ghana.

H. Public communication and outreach

56. The FAO flagship magazine *Unasylva*[13] highlights the work of both FAO and other CPF partners. Experts from partner organizations are frequent contributors or co-authors of articles. Collaborations have included co-authorship with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in the issue on forests, climate and Kyoto and with ITTO in the issue on trade and sustainable forest management. In recent years, a more conscious effort has been made to emphasize teamwork. Most recently, CIFOR collaborated in the organization of an entire issue on forests and human health, helping to plan the issue, contributing articles and participating on the review board. The work of partner organizations is highlighted in the "World of Forestry" section in virtually every issue. ITTO published the report *Status of Tropical Forest Management 2005* and continues to feature developments in the tropical forest and timber sector through its *Tropical Forest Update* and *Tropical Timber Market Report*.

VI. Future actions

57. The members of CPF have made great efforts to build and strengthen the spirit of cooperation and collaboration, and have demonstrated a strong willingness to support the United Nations Forum on Forests and to engage with each other. This cooperative spirit will be particularly important in extending collaboration into activities at the regional and national levels.

58. At the sixth session of the Forum on Forests, member States strengthened the international arrangement on forests by providing the Forum with three new principal functions and setting four shared global objectives on forests. The global objectives are ambitious and far-reaching, and will require significant cooperation and dedication on the part of both the international community and national Governments to facilitate their achievement. A non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, to be agreed at seventh session of the Forum, will also play a significant role in setting the framework for future international forest policy.

59. CPF members continually express their readiness to further strengthen their efforts, including at the regional and national levels, to support improved management and conservation of forests and forest-based sustainable development and to work with countries in the implementation of forest-related actions agreed in intergovernmental forums. Their primary preoccupation is supporting tangible actions on the ground. Awareness-raising and capacity-building are already an integral part of many of the members' activities and will play an important part in promoting and catalysing the implementation of international agreements on forests. The members of CPF look forward to working closely with the United Nations Forum on Forests and its member States to assist them in their efforts to achieve the global objectives on forests and to implement the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, as well as the new multi-year programme of work.

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[13] See www.fao.org/forestry/unasylva.